THAT DAY
さよなら ヒロインノオト
WHEN I CHALLENGED MAFUYU TO A DUEL
WITH NEW-FOUND DETERMINATION, THE DAYS OF TRAINING CONTINUE!!
THAT'S WHEN IT BEGAN

さよなら ピアノソナタ

Sayonara Piano Sonata

MANGA / AKASAKA AKA
ORIGINAL WORK / SUGII HIKARU
CHARACTER DESIGN: UEDA RYOU

CHAPTER 9: "PREPARATION AND PROMISES"

電撃文庫『さよならピアノソナタ』①～④、encore pieces 絶賛発売中!!

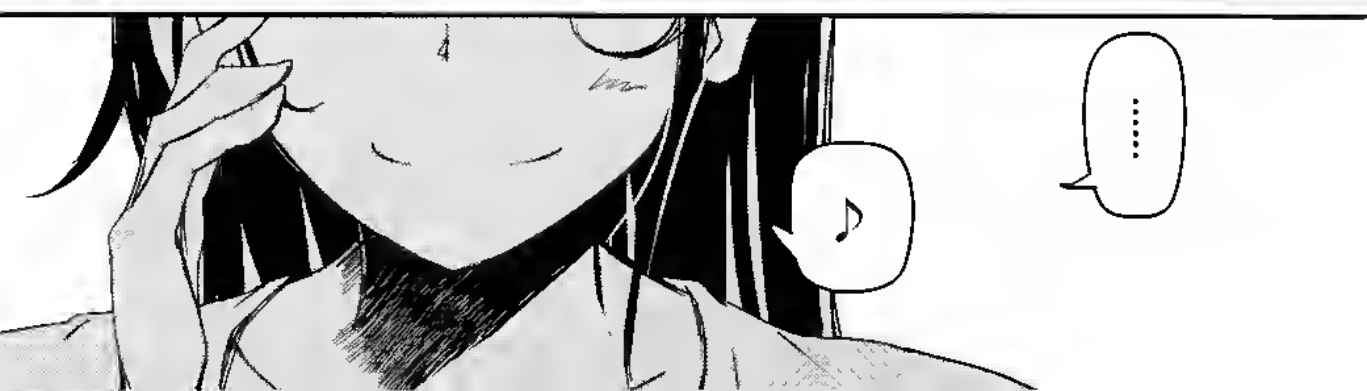
HMM.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
COMRADE AIHARA.
HMM.
LET'S TRY AGAIN.
WE'VE PRAC-TICED EVERY DAY.
WE'VE BEEN USING THE STUDIO IN SENPAI'S SHOP FOR MY TRAIN-ING.
.....
YOU'RE GOING TOO EASY ON NAO!
YOU'RE PRETTY STRICT.

AND THANKS TO SENPAI'S PATIENT GUIDANCE,
MY PERFO-RMANCE IMPRO-VED.
Okay
It's okay to go slow
Do it again
ドターン
GAH!
You're three minutes late!
CHIAKI WAS COMMITTED TO FIXING MY HABIT OF SKIPPING BY USING HER JUDO THROWS ON ME,

AH!
IT'S THAT LATE ALREADY?!
AT LEAST,
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO THINK...

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!
THANKS...
……

I've Gotta make my curfew!
SORRY!
YEAH,
SEE YA.
I'LL SEE YOU LATER!


♪
……

にじり
にじり
HO HO...
IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US NOW, HUH?
DON'T RUN AWAY.
COME ON, IT'S THE FIRST TIME IT'S BEEN JUST US.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE COMRADE AIHARA HAS LEFT US LIKE THIS.
DON'T BE AFRAID...
IT'LL BE A SPECIAL MEETING JUST FOR ADULTS...

I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU JUST WHY I CHOSE THIS PIECE...
FOR YOU TO USE IN YOUR DUEL WITH EBI-SAWA MAFUYU.
IN THE GAME OF ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS WE PLAYED WHEN YOU CAME TO BUY YOUR BASS,
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I DID?
UM...

I JUST KNOW A SUREFIRE WAY TO WIN ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS.
IT'S NOT LIKE I READ YOUR MIND.
A-SURE-FIRE WAY TO WIN...?
IT'S EASY.
I JUST WAIT TO SEE WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO USE.
WHAT?!
THERE WASN'T ANY DEEP MEANING TO ME PUTTING THE PICK BETWEEN MY FINGERS.
I JUST WANTED TO CONFUSE YOU.
YOU SHOULD REMEMBER THIS.
THE WAY TO WIN ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS EVERY TIME IT BY BEING THE ONE TO YELL "ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS".

END THE FIGHT BEFORE IT STARTS.
DRAG YOUR OPPONENT ONTO YOUR FIELD OF PLAY.
THIS IS WHAT YOU SHOULD DO TO EBISAWA MAFUYU.
THERE ARE FOUR REASONS WHY I CHOSE THIS PIECE...

I SEE...
DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN WIN NOW?
...I CAN SEE HOW THAT MAKES SENSE...
heh
MAYBE ABOUT 0.2% SURE...
I TOLD YOU BEFORE.
I'M JUST WONDERING...
IF YOU PLAYED THIS, SENPAI, YOU'D BE ABLE TO WIN EASILY, RIGHT?
THERE'S REALLY NO REASON FOR ME TO DO ALL THIS WORK...
I JUST COULDN'T.
IT HAS TO BE YOU.

……
THERE'S ONE LAST THING WE NEED TO DO.
RIGHT.
ゴソ ゴソ
……
READ THIS AND SIGN.
Club Application Form
Date 2012
Year ___ Class___ Name_____
I, _____, a
applying to join this club
(club name)_____
THERE'S A SPOT FOR EBI-SAWA MAFUYU, TOO.
……
THAT'S …
AND ALL OUR TRAIN-ING…
BUT AFTER THAT DAY…
HON-ESTLY
IN THE BEGIN-NING I DIDN'T WANT TO JOIN,

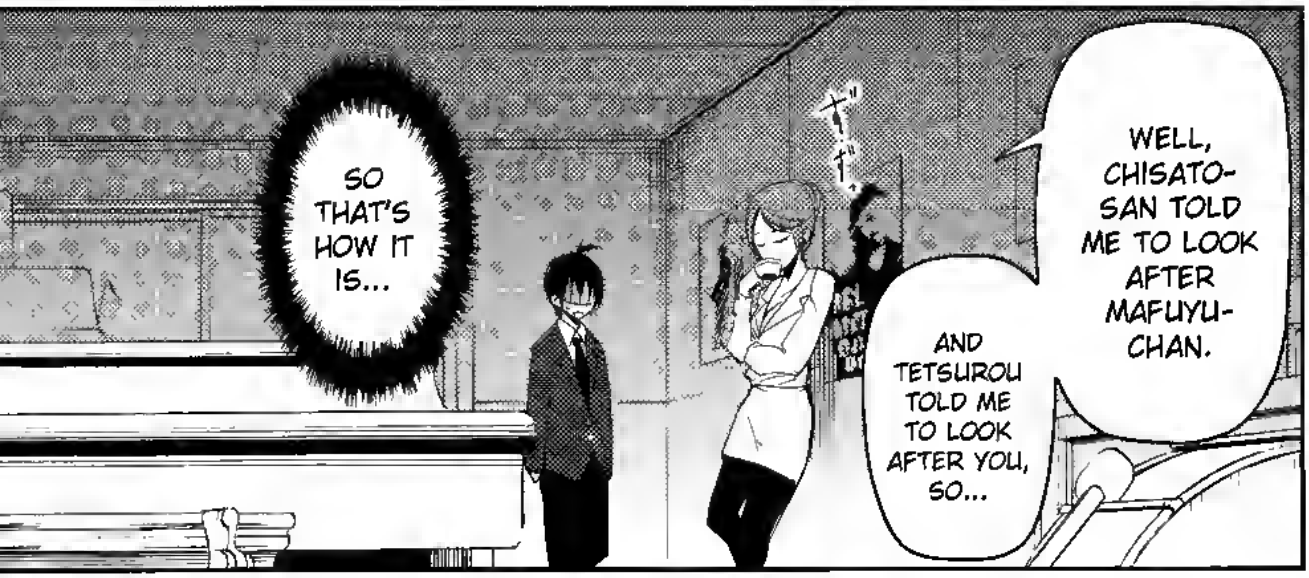
THOSE WORDS HAD A SPECIAL MEANING.
...BUT
I'M NOT JOINING.
I'VE GOTTEN A LOT OF HELP FROM YOU AND CHIAKI,
BUT I CAN'T GIVE YOU AN ANSWER UNTIL I GET...
...SOME RESU-LTS.
...BUT IF...
I'VE COME TO UNDER-STAND THAT.
...YOU'RE A PRIDE-FUL MAN, AREN'T YOU.
.....

IF YOU BEAT EBISAWA MAFUYU, AND GET HER TO JOIN THE CLUB,
...WOULD YOU JOIN THEN?
nod...
WELL. THERE YOU GO.
THEN, WE'LL PUT THIS AWAY AS A PROMISE FOR ANOTHER DAY.
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
① Open it
② Put it in
③ Close it
I'M USING SOMEONE'S SCREWDRIVER...
TO OPEN SOMEONE'S BASS...
④ Get reaction
WAIT, SERIOUSLY!
What are you doing!?

WELL, IT'S JUST A GOOD LUCK CHARM.
LIKE HOW SAMURAI WOULD SEW A CARD INTO THEIR KIMONO.
NO, I CAN'T.
You just have really good ears.
SEE, IF YOU DO THIS, YOU CAN HEAR THE PAPER INSIDE, RIGHT?
WHAT.
MAYBE IT'LL HAVE A SUBLIMINAL EFFECT ON HER.
BUT, MAYBE EBISAWA MAFUYU WILL BE ABLE TO HEAR IT.

DON'T FORGET.
OUR PROMISE...
IS ALWAYS WITH YOU.

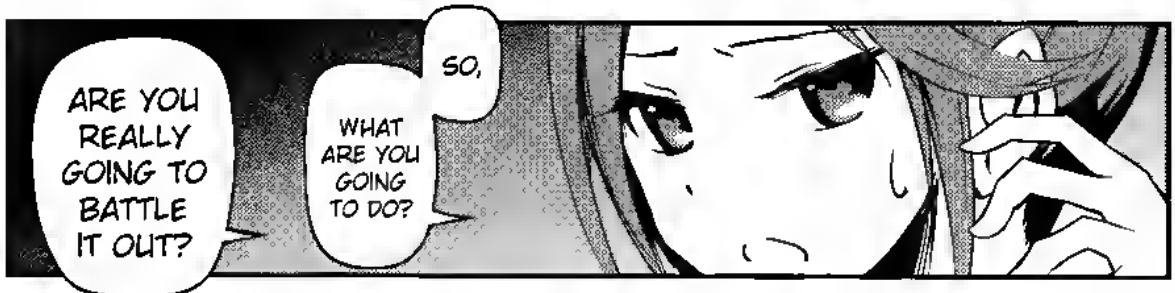
I WISH YOU LUCK.
Music Room
SO,
HAVE YOU BEEN BOTHERING MAFUYU-CHAN LATELY?
(teacher)
MUKOUJIMA MAKI
NO...
I REALLY HAVEN'T BEEN "BOTH-ERING" HER...

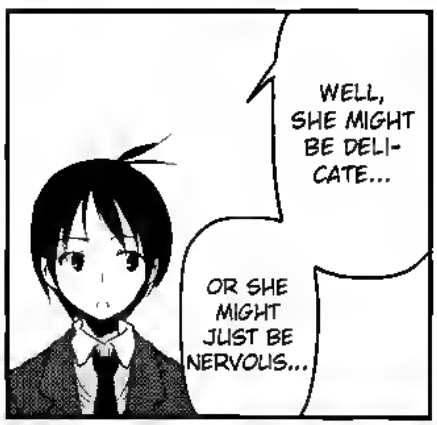

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...
ドーナー
WELL, CHISATO-SAN TOLD ME TO LOOK AFTER MAFUYU-CHAN.
AND TETSUROU TOLD ME TO LOOK AFTER YOU, SO...

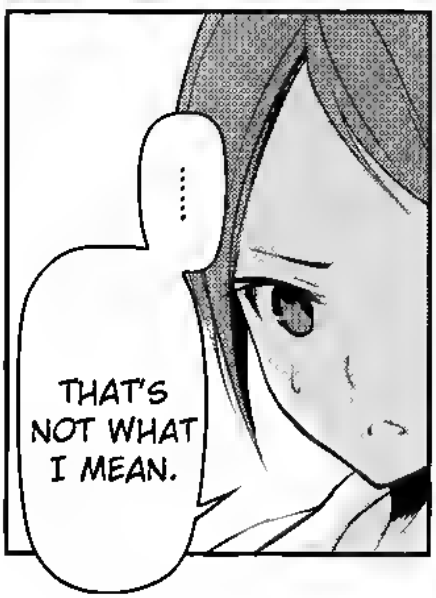
WHO'S THIS LADY?!
SHE WAS TAUGHT BY EBISAWA CHISATO,
AND WENT TO SCHOOL WITH TETSU-ROU.
MAKI-CHAN SENSEI IS SEXY.
I HEARD THAT NAO'S DAD HIT ON HER ALL THE TIME WHEN THEY WERE STUDENTS.
I HEARD SHE USED TO BE A MUSCLE GIRL FREAK!
(And nobody expected her to be a teacher!)

A GUITAR BATTLE?!
UHH, WELL...
SO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

GAH...
AND KAGURA-ZAKA-SAN IS INVOLVED, TOO...
I'D SAY IT WAS A STUPID THING TO DO, BUT THAT'S KAGURA-ZAKA-SAN FOR YOU...
SHE HAS THIS ANNOYING WAY OF DOING THINGS...
YEAH,
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT...


SO,
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO BATTLE IT OUT?


WELL, SHE MIGHT BE DELI-CATE...
OR SHE MIGHT JUST BE NERVOUS...


.....
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.

WELL, WE'LL DO SOME-THING..
OR ANO-THER...
JUST SO YOU KNOW... I'M GLAD THAT YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY WITH MAFUYU-CHAN.
BUT DON'T PROVOKE HER.
SHE'S A DELICATE GIRL.

?
じっ…

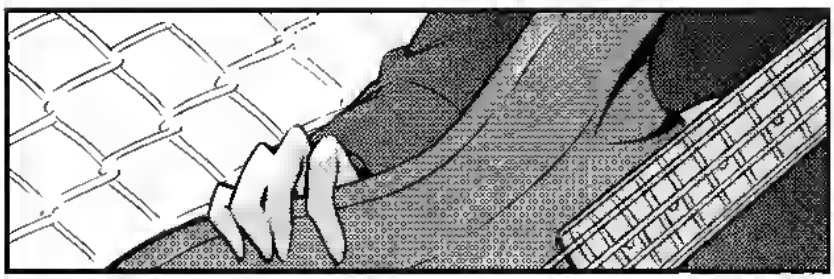
I GUESS I COULD TELL YOU,
NAO-KUN...

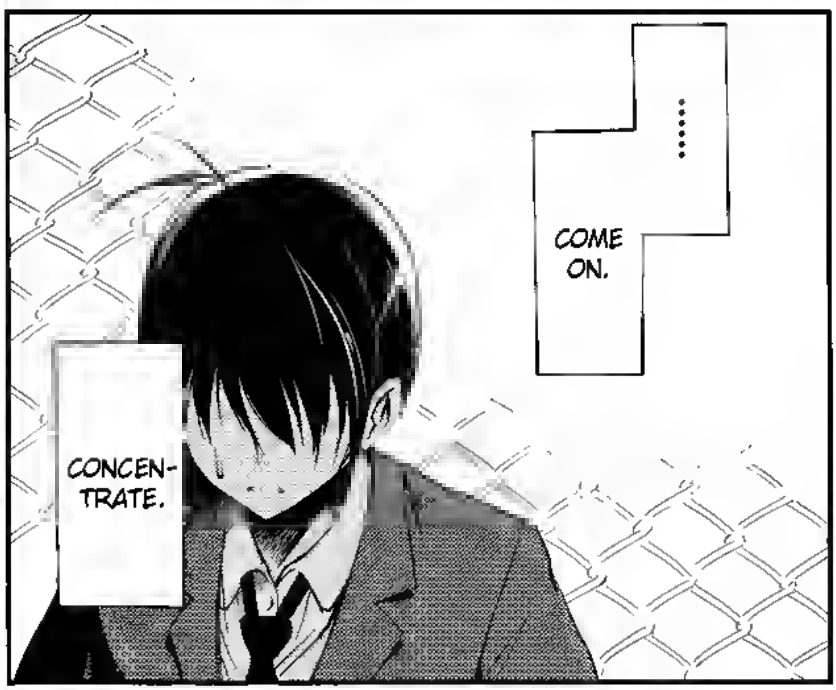
THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY.
JUST...
WATCH WHAT MAFUYU-CHAN DOES FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
IT'D BE BETTER IF SHE TOLD YOU HERSELF.
HUH?
NO,
I DON'T THINK I CAN TELL YOU.

I MEAN, YOU'RE THE PERSON CLOSEST TO HER.
WHAT SONG...
WAS SHE PLAYING BACK THEN?

I FELT LIKE I MISSED SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T HAVE MISSED.

YOU'VE GOT TO WIN.




.....
COME ON.
CONCEN-TRATE.

I WON'T BE ABLE TO TALK TO MAFUYU AGAIN.
IF I LOSE HERE,
I MEAN
IF I LOSE AFTER TRYING SO HARD
IF I LOSE, I WON'T JOIN THE FOLK MUSIC CLUB.
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I SAID.
I WON'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO STAND NEXT TO THE TWO OF THEM.
JUST WHEN DID I

HAVE SO MANY THINGS IN MY LIFE
THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE?
.....
STUPID.

STUPID!
STUPID
STUPID
STUPID
STUPID
HE'S SO STU-PID!!
STUPID
STUPID
STUPID
STUPID
STUPID
HE'S NOT GOING TO WIN ...!

EASY ON HIM...
I SHOULD GO...
.....
BUT...
WHO CARES!

I KNEW THAT SHE WAS IN THERE MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY...
AND LEFT EARLY FRIDAY.
NAO IS NOT A STALKER.
SO SHE WAS IN THERE.
END THE BATTLE BEFORE IT STARTS...
BRING YOUR OPPONENT ONTO YOUR FIELD OF PLAY.
SORRY, MAFUYU.
click
NAO IS NOT A
I'M GOING TO WIN.
EVEN IF I HAVE TO BE UNFAIR.

AND THUS
5月
金曜日
(大安)
31
THE LAST DAY OF MAY ARRIVED.
TESTU-ROU.
I'M GOING TO SCHOOL.
MAKE SURE YOU EAT BREAKFAST.
WHY ARE YOU AWAKE?
IT'S NOT EVEN 6 AM.
I'M...
A LITTLE EXCITED.
I SEE...
GOOD LU...

1 - 3

HE'S GOT A DUEL WITH EBI-SAWA?
I HEARD, TOO.
THESE WEINER BREADS ARE US HOPING YOU'LL BE A WINNER.
WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU LOSE?
ARE YOU GOING TO BE HER SLAVE?
WELL, THAT'S KIND OF HOW IT ALREADY IS.

WAIT, HOLD ON.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
WE OVER-HEARD.
HEY.

SHOW US THAT WE WON'T FEEL BAD IF YOU BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF HER!
IT MAKES ME FEEL BAD THAT HE HAS TO SAY THAT.
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE BATTLE, DOES IT?

IT'S NOT SOME-THING YOU'LL SEE!
AND THEN WE HEARD YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT A DUEL, AND WE WANTED TO SEE.
SO WE THOUGHT, "OH, IS HE...?"
WE SAW YOU HEADING OVER TO EBISAWA'S SPOT WITH SUCH A SERIOUS FACE...

Did he mean something sexual by "battle"?
He's keeping it a secret.
There it is..
He's pulling away..
Yeah, yeah..
I guess they want to be alone.
Jeez.
I'M DEFI-NITELY NOT TELLING YOU...
BUT WE HAVEN'T HEARD ANY OF THE DETAILS YET.
SO WHEN IS IT? WHERE?
I DEF-INITELY WANT TO SEE.
WELL,
WHAT-EVER.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, BUT DON'T LOSE.
JUST DON'T LOSE,
NAO!

LENNON
ROCK'N'R
STAND BY ME
...JEEZ,
THAT GIRL...

OH,
ARE YOU HEADING OUT TO THE BATTLE?
Can I have one of those?
MAKE SURE YOU WIN, OKAY?
GOOD LUCK, BOY.
WHA?!
!?
!

BUT EAT ONE JUST IN CASE!
WHY?!
OH,
THANKS FOR THAT.
I won't eat them.
NAO, YOU'RE HEADING OUT, RIGHT?!
I'M TAKING IT!
WHY ARE YOU TAKING ALL THIS BREAD WITH YOU?!
.....
BEAT HER.
YOU'LL MAKE ME MAD IF YOU DON'T!

EBISAWA MAFUYU.
YOU'RE THERE, RIGHT?
I CAME TO DUEL.

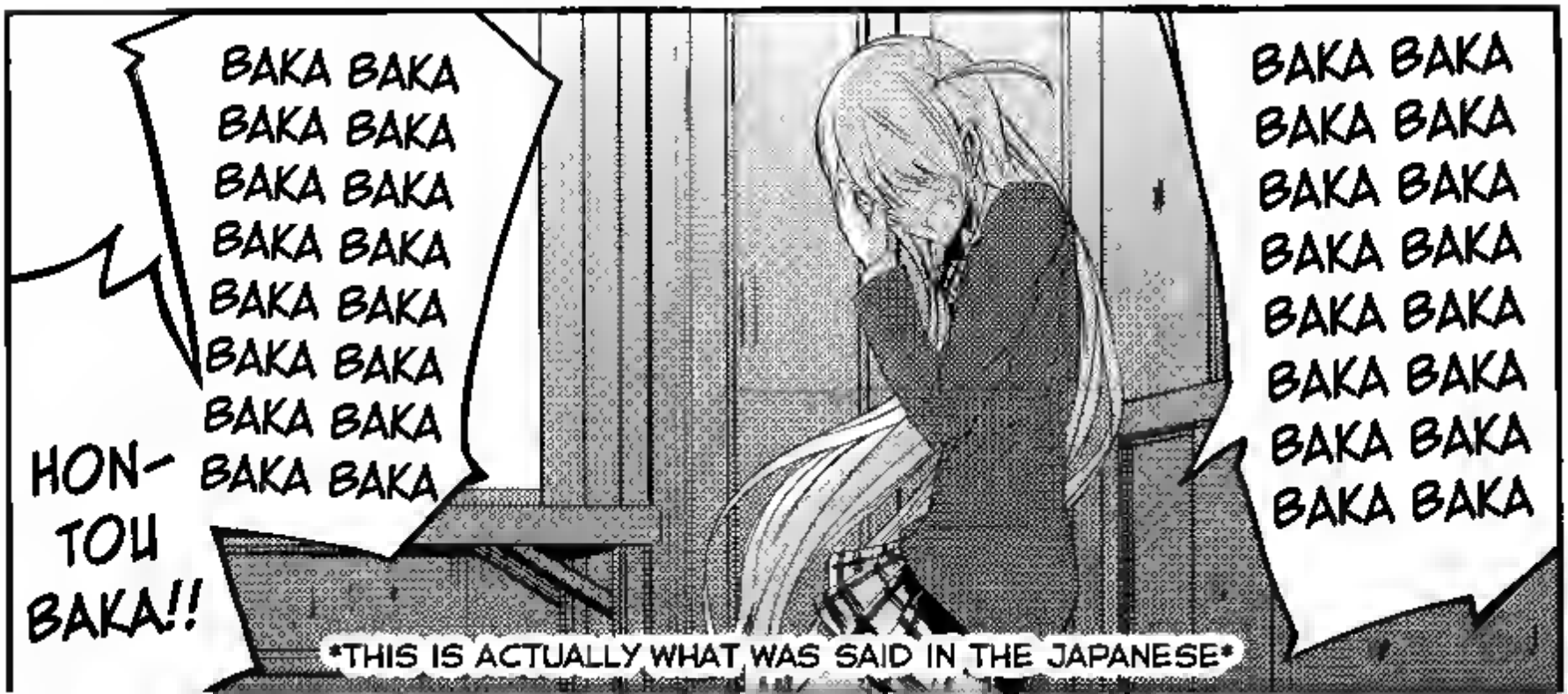
I CAME TO WIN.
HERE IT IS! DOES NAO HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO WIN?!
TO BE CONTINUED...

SAYONARA PIANO SONATA CHAPTER 9

SCANS ANON BLACK
TRANSLATION ANON BLACK
CLEANING ATOMSK
TYPESETTING ANON BLACK

PRETTYANON.WORDPRESS.COM

THERE WAS NO MUSIC IN THIS CHAPTER...
BUT YOU CAN STILL DOWNLOAD THE CHAPTER FROM OUR WEBSITE!
PREVIOUS CHAPTERS HAVE MUSIC BUNDLED WITH THEM TO
IMPROVE YOUR READING EXPERIENCE!



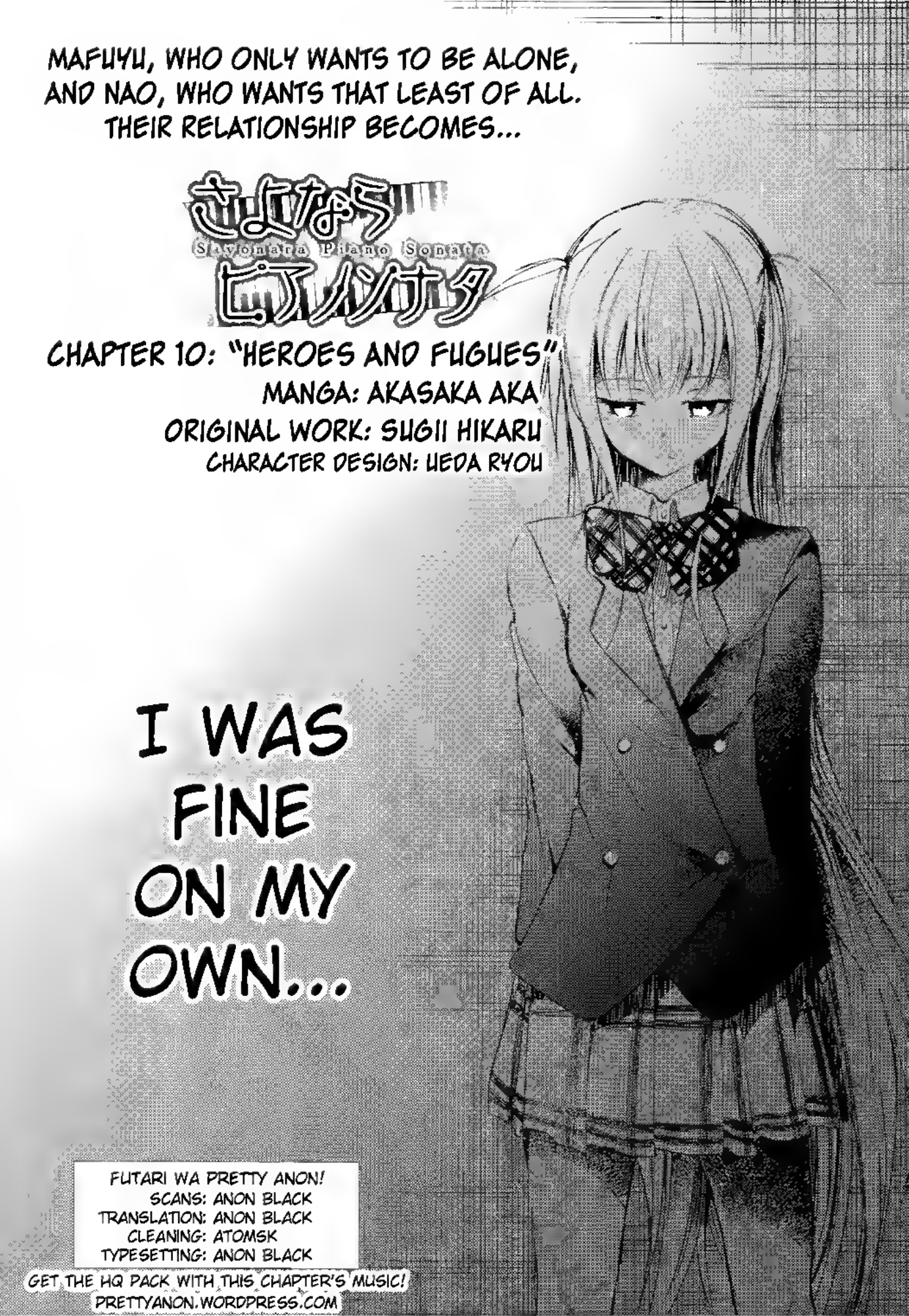
A TROUBLED MAFUYU...
WHY DOES THIS PERSON
KEEP GETTING INVOLVED WITH ME?
AND I'VE DRIVEN HIM AWAY SO MANY TIMES...
I'VE MADE HIM ANGRY SO MANY TIMES...
WHY?

MAFUYU, WHO ONLY WANTS TO BE ALONE,
AND NAO, WHO WANTS THAT LEAST OF ALL.
THEIR RELATIONSHIP BECOMES...

さよならピアノソナタ
Sayonara Piano Sonata

CHAPTER 10: "HEROES AND FUGUES"

MANGA: AKASAKA AKA
ORIGINAL WORK: SUGII HIKARU
CHARACTER DESIGN: UEDA RYOU

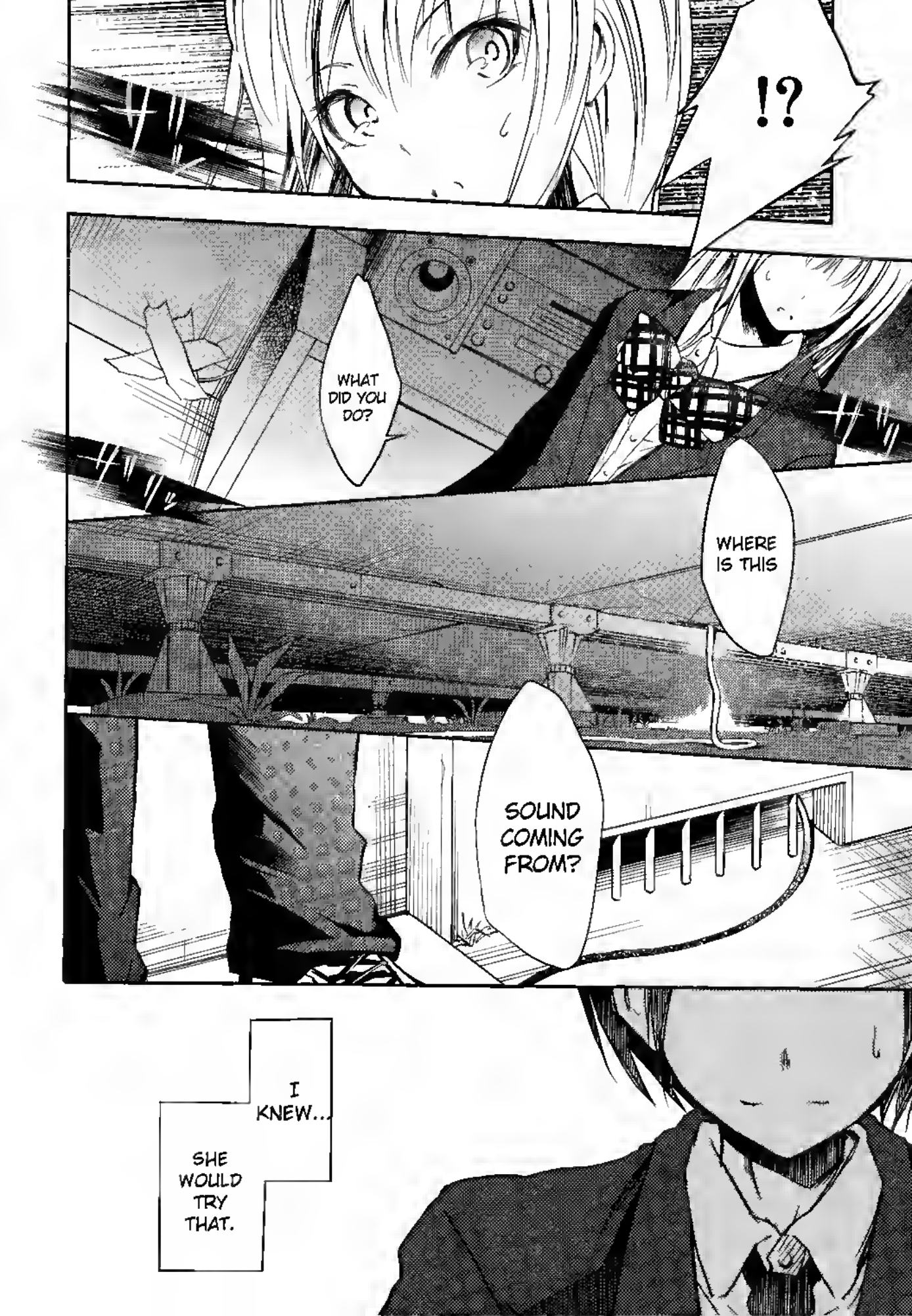


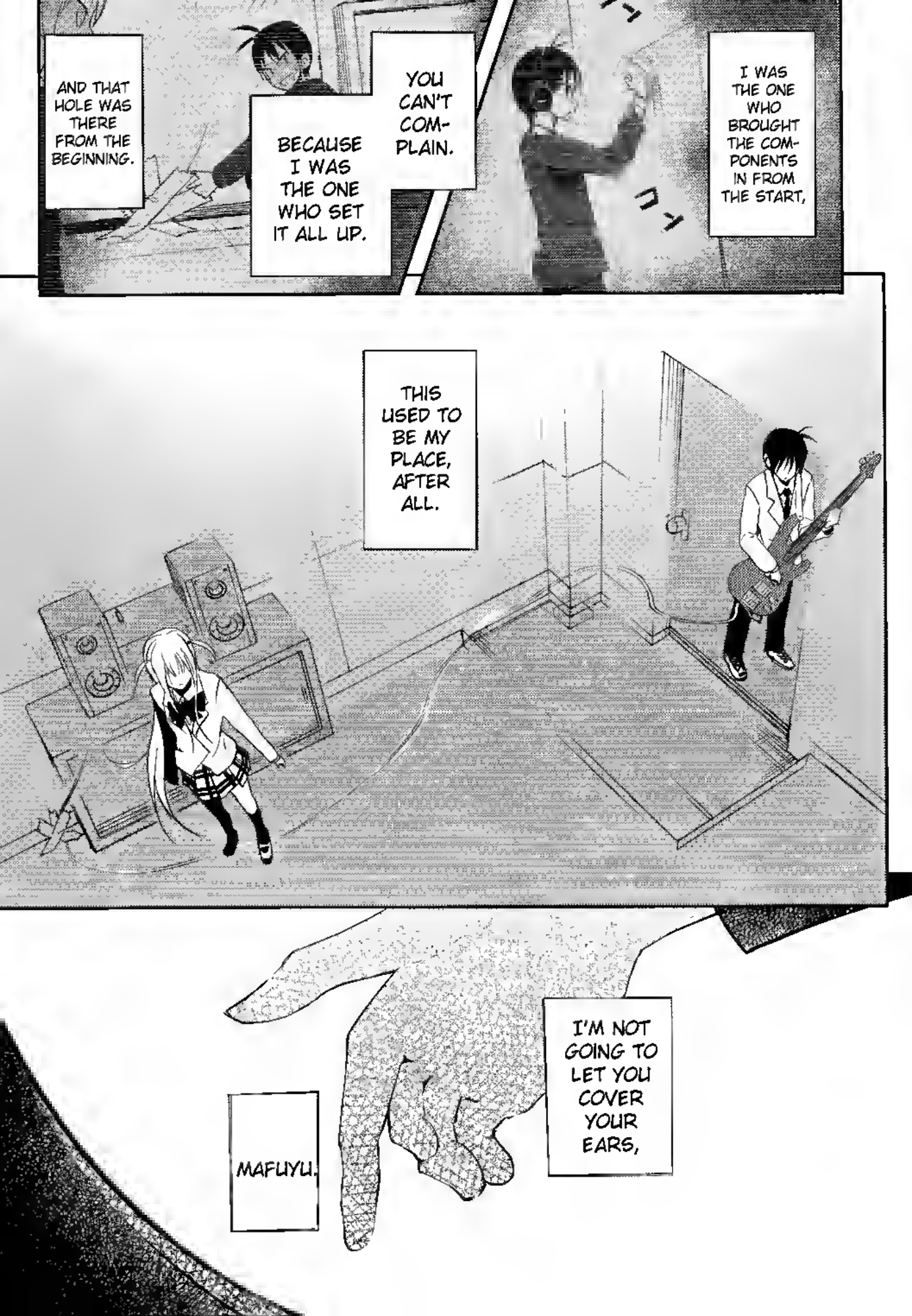
FUTARI WA PRETTY ANON!
SCANS: ANON BLACK
TRANSLATION: ANON BLACK
CLEANING: ATOMSK
TYPESETTING: ANON BLACK
GET THE HQ PACK WITH THIS CHAPTER'S MUSIC!
PRETTYANON.WORDPRESS.COM

I'LL GO OVER THE RULES.
IF I CAN PLAY WITH YOU UNTIL THE END, THEN I WIN.
IF I CAN'T DO THAT, OR IF I PLAY BADLY,
THEN I LOSE.
IF I LOSE, I WON'T COME NEAR YOU EVER AGAIN.
TODAY...

AS A REPRE-SENTATIVE OF ROCK LOVERS,
I HAVE COME TO GET REVENGE ON YOU, AND YOUR HARD-HEADED WAY OF THINKING CLASSICAL MUSIC IS BETTER THAN EVERYTHING.
.....
YOU'RE AN IDIOT.
ARE YOU SERI-OUS?
YOU CAN'T EVEN PLAY A SCALE WITH YOUR PINKY FINGER.
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME.
I'M NOT THE SAME AS BE-FORE.
WHY ARE YOU GOING THIS FAR?
DO YOU REALLY WANT THIS ROOM THAT BADLY?

I DON'T UNDER-STAND YOU!
...I DUNNO.
I DON'T REALLY HAVE A REASON.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO... OUT THERE.
...THAT'S RIGHT. I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE PART IN THIS.
AND BESIDES, ONLY KIDS DO THIS KIND OF STUPID BATTLE STUFF.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT WHAT HE...


!?
WHAT DID YOU DO?
WHERE IS THIS
SOUND COMING FROM?
I KNEW...
SHE WOULD TRY THAT.


I WAS THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THE COMPONENTS IN FROM THE START,
YOU CAN'T COMPLAIN.
BECAUSE I WAS THE ONE WHO SET IT ALL UP.
AND THAT HOLE WAS THERE FROM THE BEGINNING.
THIS USED TO BE MY PLACE, AFTER ALL.
I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU COVER YOUR EARS,
MAFUYU.

ドドド

THERE ARE FOUR REASONS WHY I CHOSE THIS PIECE.
THE FIRST 32 BARS OF THE PIECE CAN ONLY BE PLAYED IN THE BASS REGISTER.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO LAUNCH A PREEMPTIVE STRIKE ON HER.
PLAY IT *ALLEGRETTO VIVACE.*
AND DON'T PLAY IT TOO FAST.

AFTER YOU LEAD HER IN, MAFUYU WILL BE THE FIRST TO PLAY THE MELODY.
IF SHE TRIES TO GO FAST THERE...
THAT'S THE FIRST REASON I CHOSE THIS PIECE.
YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST HER IN A BATTLE FOR SPEED.
BUT SINCE YOU PLAY THE FIRST 32 BARS, YOU SET THE SPEED FOR THE REST OF THE SONG.
NOW, REASON NUMBER TWO.
THIS PIECE IS THE LAST PART OF THE SYMPHONY, SO IT'S GOT PLENTY OF RITARDANDOS AND FERMATAS.
SO YOU'LL HAVE SPACES WHERE THE MUSIC JUST "BREAKS".
NO MATTER HOW FAST SHE TRIES TO GO, AT THESE BREAKS, YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR ALLEGRETTO.
THERE AREN'T A LOT OF SONGS LIKE THIS.
SHE'S RIGHT...
ALL THESE REASONS MAKE SENSE.

AND THEN,
THE THIRD REASON...
!!

IT'S HARD FOR
THE GUITAR

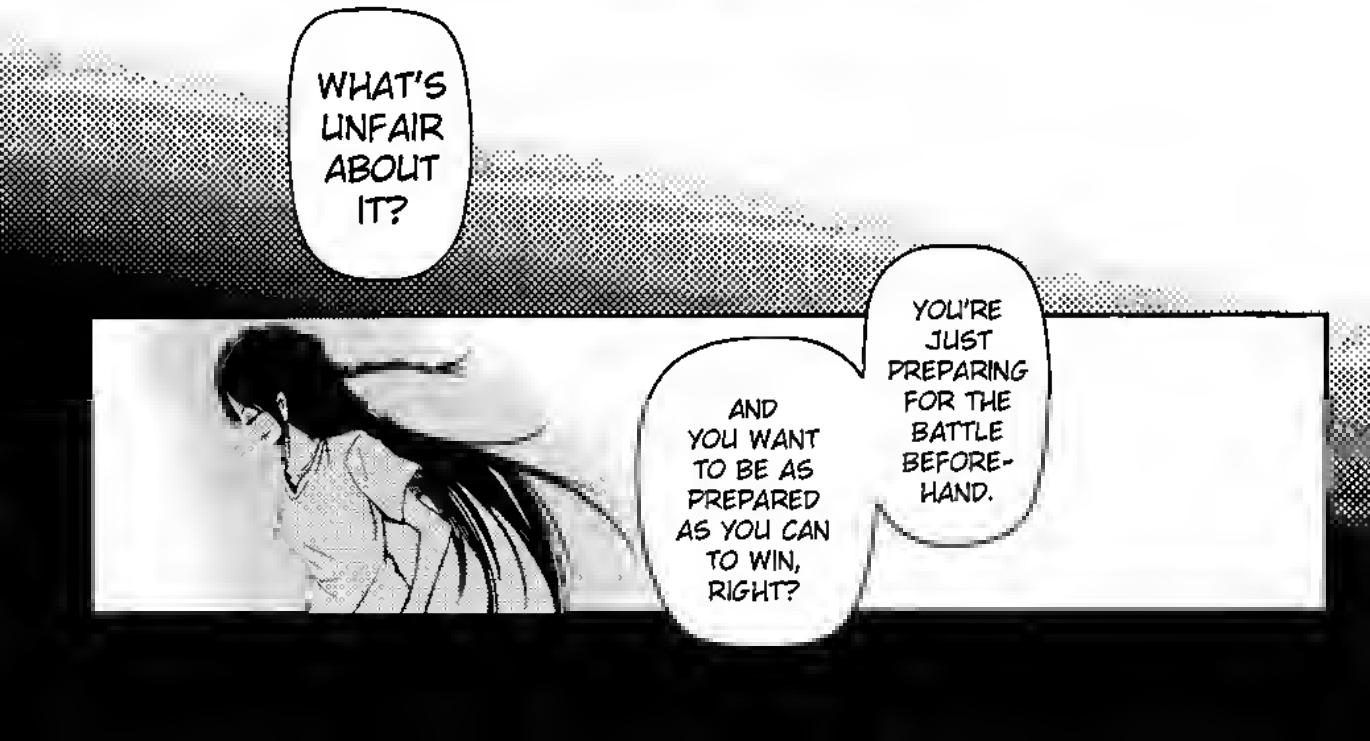
TO TRY AND RAISE THE SPEED PASS THE BASS PART AFTER THE BREAKS.
BUT IN THE FOURTH VARIATION
YOU'RE NOT THE ONE WHO STARTS IT, RIGHT?
IF SHE TRIES TO GET AWAY...

WHY...
E-FLAT MAJOR.
HUH? OH...
YOU KNOW THIS, RIGHT?
IT'S ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT KEYS TO PLAY IN FOR THE GUITAR AND BASS.
IT'LLL BE DIFFICULT FOR EBI-SAWA MAFUYU, TOO.
IF SHE TRIES TO PLAY AT A HIGH SPEED, SHE'LL DESTROY HERSELF.
HOLD ON A SECOND,
IT'S GONNA BE HARD FOR ME, TOO!

JUST DO WHAT PAGANINI DID.
...OH!
I GET IT!
RETUNE YOUR BASS!

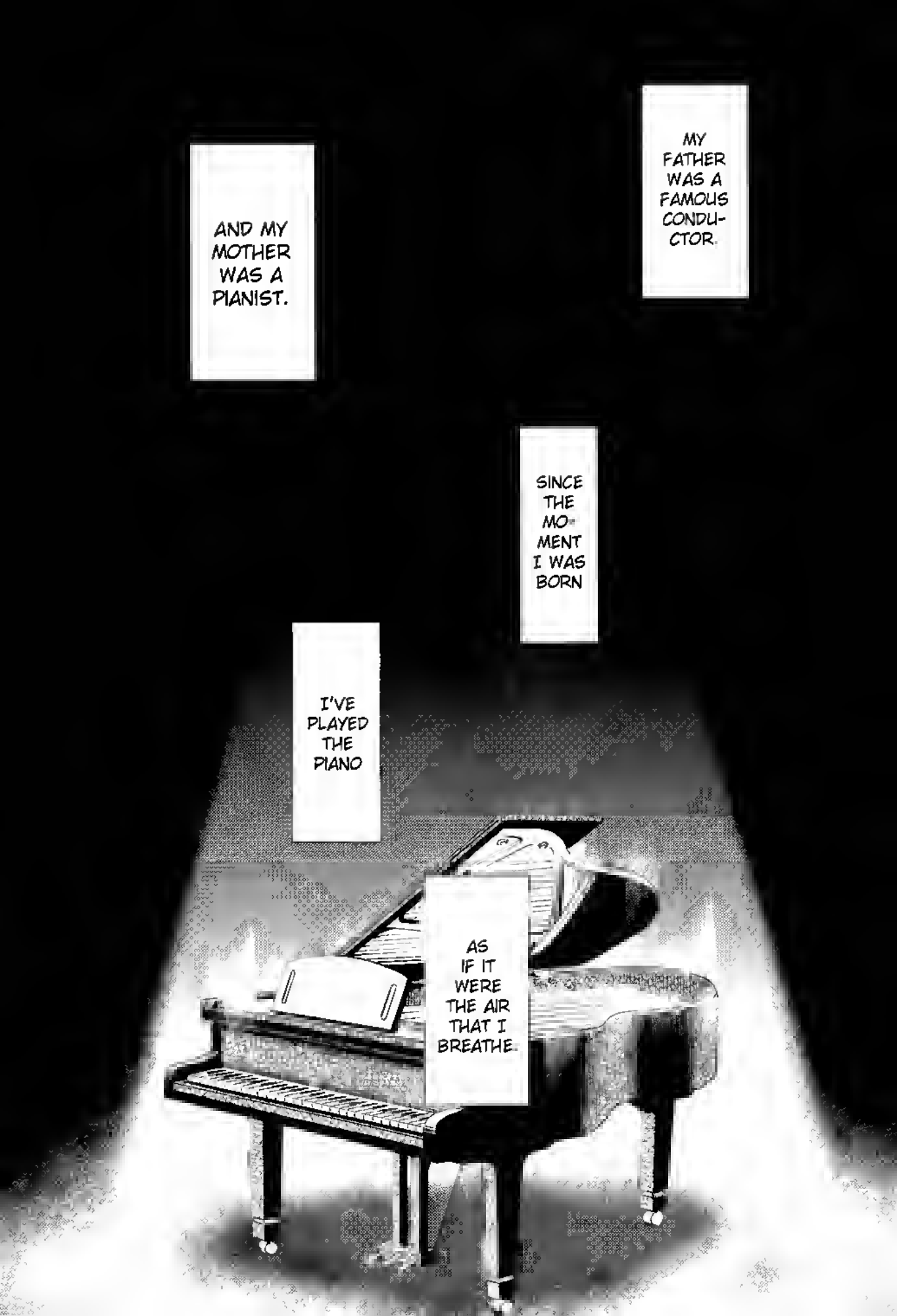
THE VIOLINIST THEY CALLED THE "DEVIL",
NICCOLO PAGANINI.
HE COMPOSED A WIDE NUMBER OF SOLO CONCERTOS IN E-FLAT MAJOR.
BUT HE TUNED HIS VIOLIN A HALF-STEP DOWN.
JUST DO WHAT HE DID.
IF I TUNE ALL THE STRINGS ON MY BASS A HALF-STEP DOWN,
I CAN PLAY IN THE MUCH EASIER KEY, E MAJOR.
AND IT'LL SOUND LIKE I'M PLAYING IN E-FLAT MAJOR...!
IT'S SO...

IT'S SO UNFAIR...

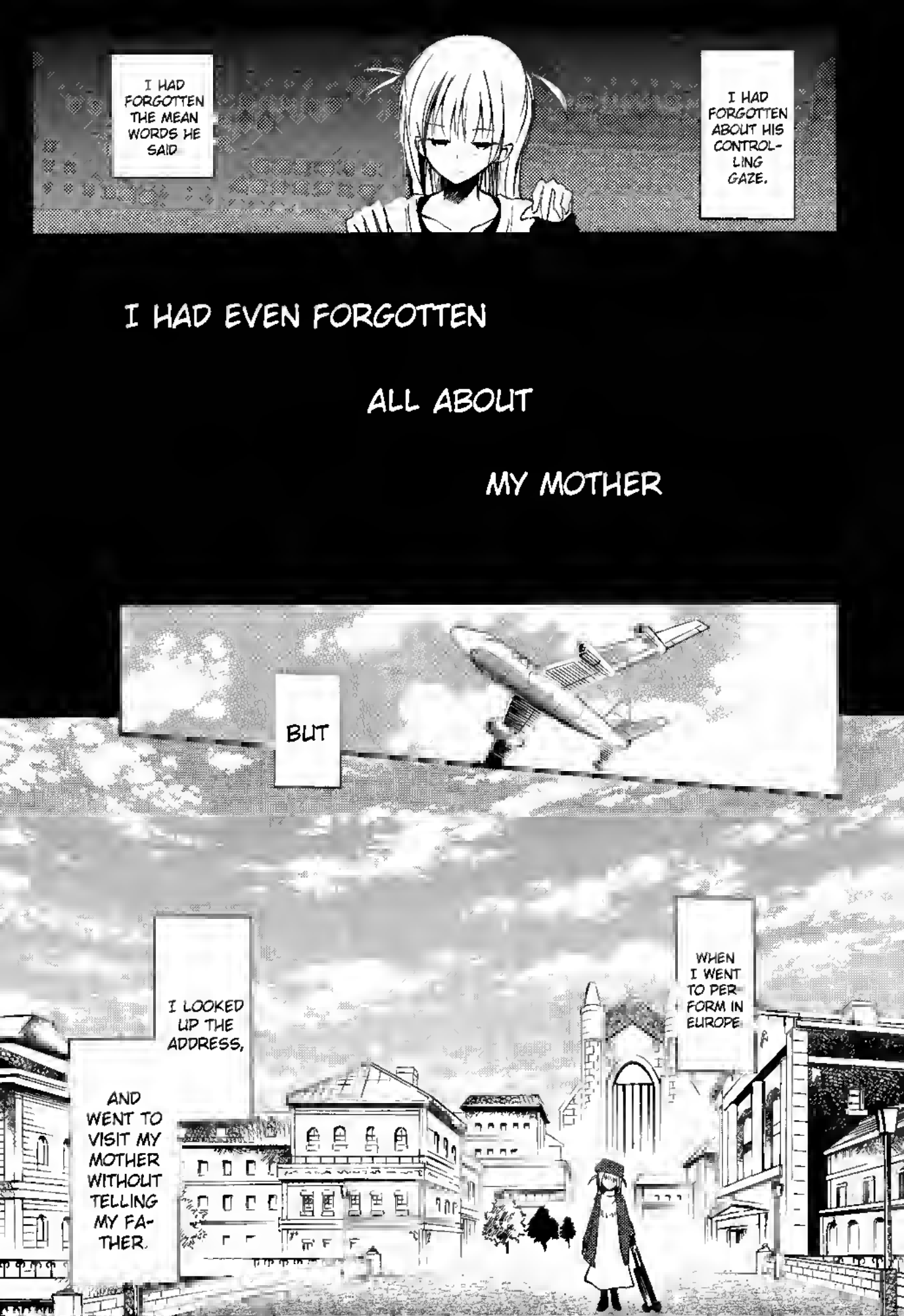

WHAT'S UNFAIR ABOUT IT?
YOU'RE JUST PREPARING FOR THE BATTLE BEFORE-HAND.
AND YOU WANT TO BE AS PREPARED AS YOU CAN TO WIN, RIGHT?

AND...
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PLAY IT, WON'T YOU,
EBI-SAWA MAFUYU?
I WAS
ALWAYS WONDERING

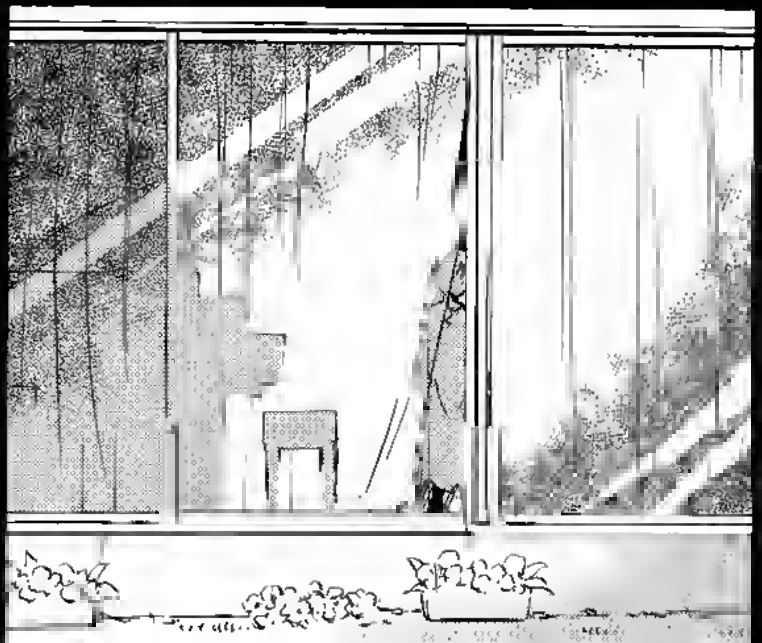
WHY DOES
MUSIC EXIST?


MY FATHER WAS A FAMOUS CONDU-CTOR.
AND MY MOTHER WAS A PIANIST.
SINCE THE MO-MENT I WAS BORN
I'VE PLAYED THE PIANO
AS IF IT WERE THE AIR THAT I BREATHE.

THAT'S WHY, WHEN MY MOTHER QUIT PLAYING PIANO,
AND LEFT MY FAMILY,
I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY.
MY STRICT FATHER WAS THERE, BUT...
I PUT MY HANDS TO THE KEYBOARD, PLAYING THE MUSIC SET BEFORE ME, AS IF IT WERE JUST NATURAL TO DO SO.


I HAD FORGOTTEN THE MEAN WORDS HE SAID
I HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIS CONTROL-LING GAZE.
I HAD EVEN FORGOTTEN
ALL ABOUT
MY MOTHER
BUT
WHEN I WENT TO PER-FORM IN EUROPE
I LOOKED UP THE ADDRESS,
AND WENT TO VISIT MY MOTHER WITHOUT TELLING MY FA-THER.

"SHE SAYS SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE YOU, I'M SORRY, BUT, PLEASE GO HOME."



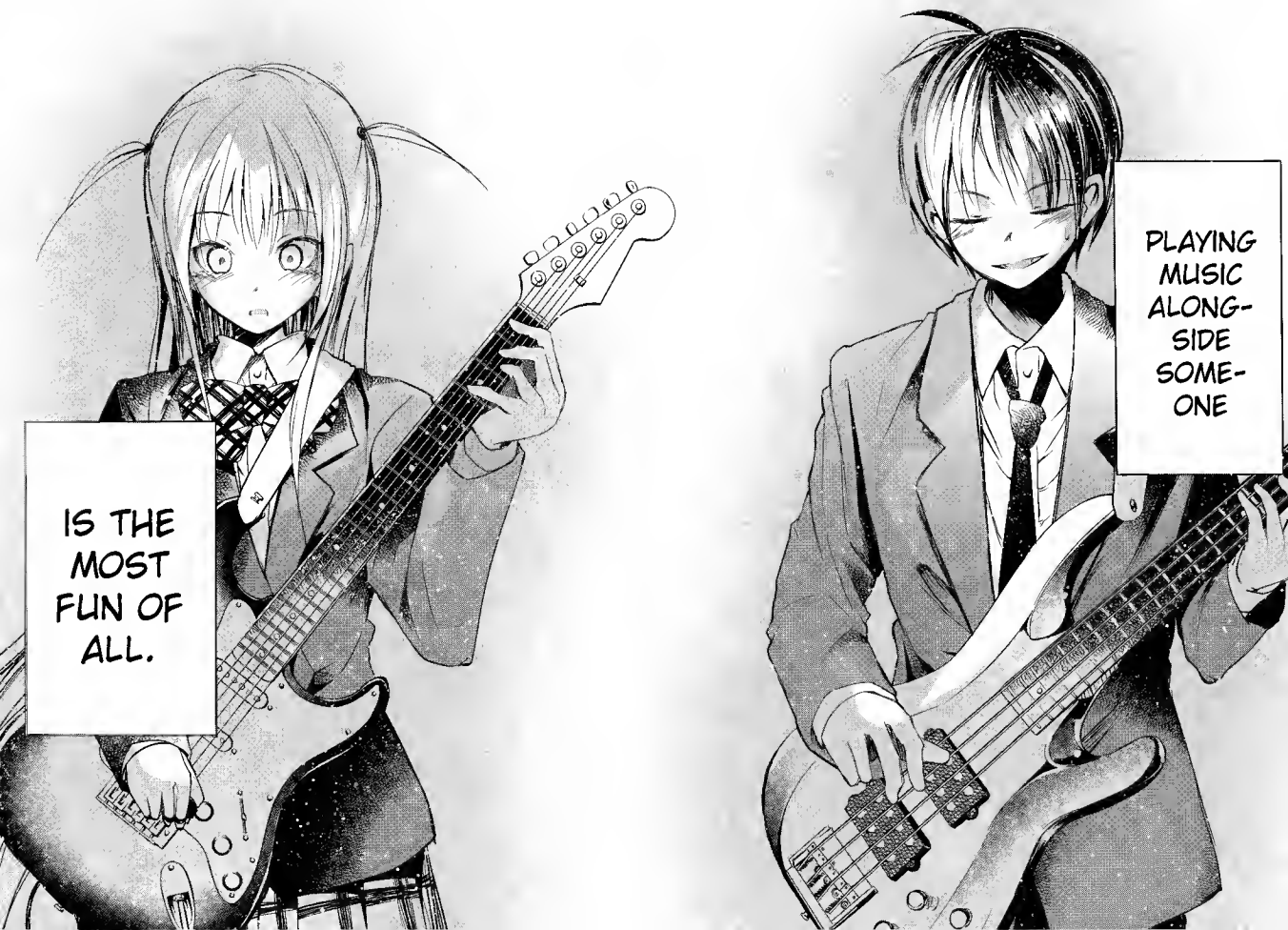
WHY DO I EVEN
PLAY MUSIC?
FOR WHAT REASON
AM I...

AND I'M SURE THERE WERE TIMES
WHEN IT WAS PAIN-FUL.
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A TIME
WHEN I THOUGHT MUSIC WAS FUN.
I WANT TO KNOW,
I WANT TO RE-MEMBER.
I EVEN PICKED UP THIS INSTRU-MENT.

WHAT HAS
MUSIC
DONE TO ME?

YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW THIS, MAFUYU, BUT...
YOU'RE NOT SUPP-OSED TO PLAY THE GUITAR LIKE THAT.

OF ALL THE INSTRU-MENTS IN THE WORLD
99% OF THEM
ARE MEANT TO BE PLAYED WITH ANOTHER.
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?
IT'S PROBABLY EASY TO EXPLAIN.
BOTH YOU AND I
HAVE FOR-GOTTEN SOME-THING IMPOR-TANT.


IS THE MOST FUN OF ALL.
PLAYING MUSIC ALONG-SIDE SOME-ONE

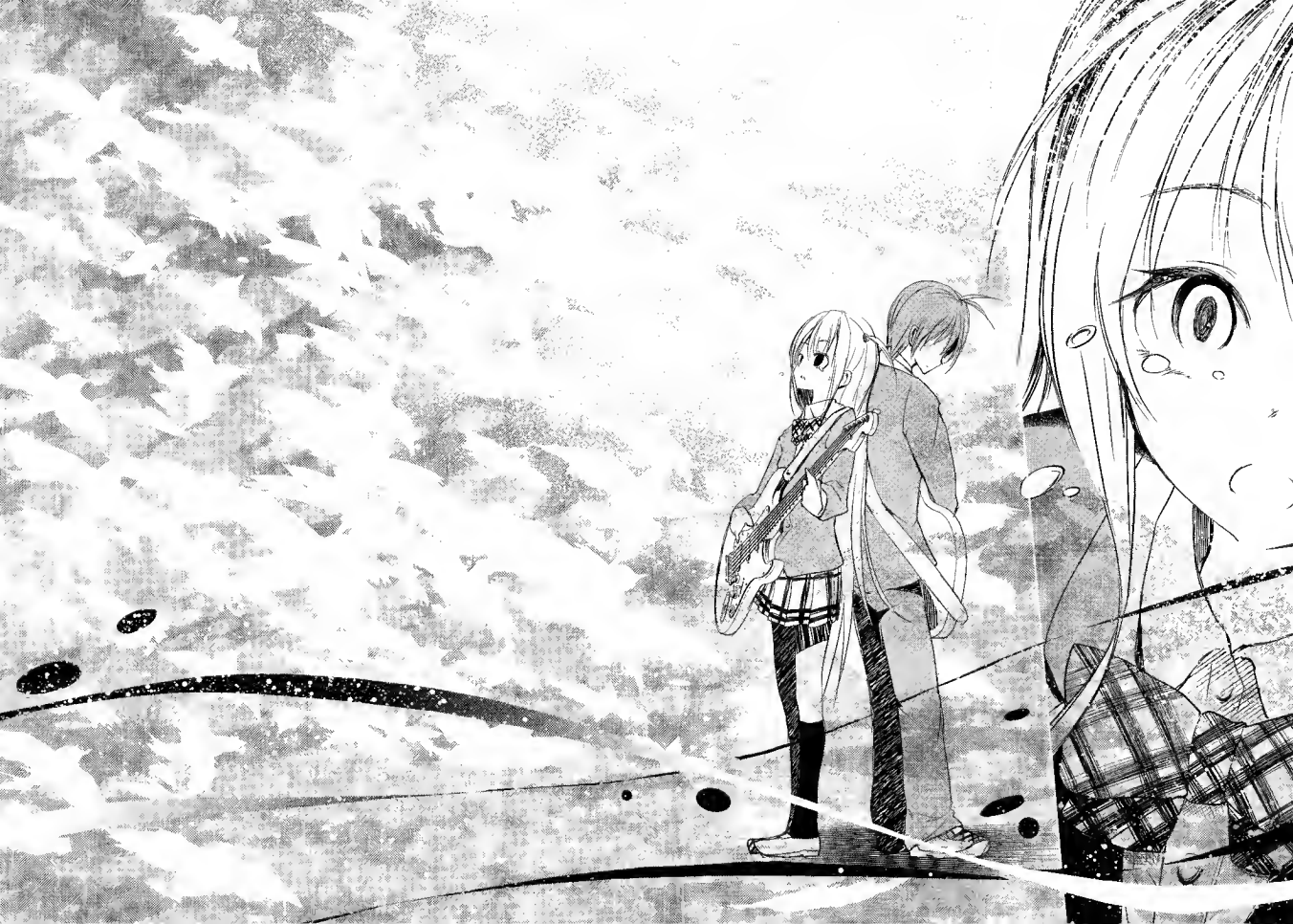
EBISAWA MAFUYU WILL DEFINITELY TAKE THE BAIT ON THAT SONG.
AND SHE'LL FINALLY UNDER-STAND THAT SHE CAN'T PLAY SOME PIECES ON HER OWN.
THAT'S THE LAST REASON I CHOSE THAT SONG.

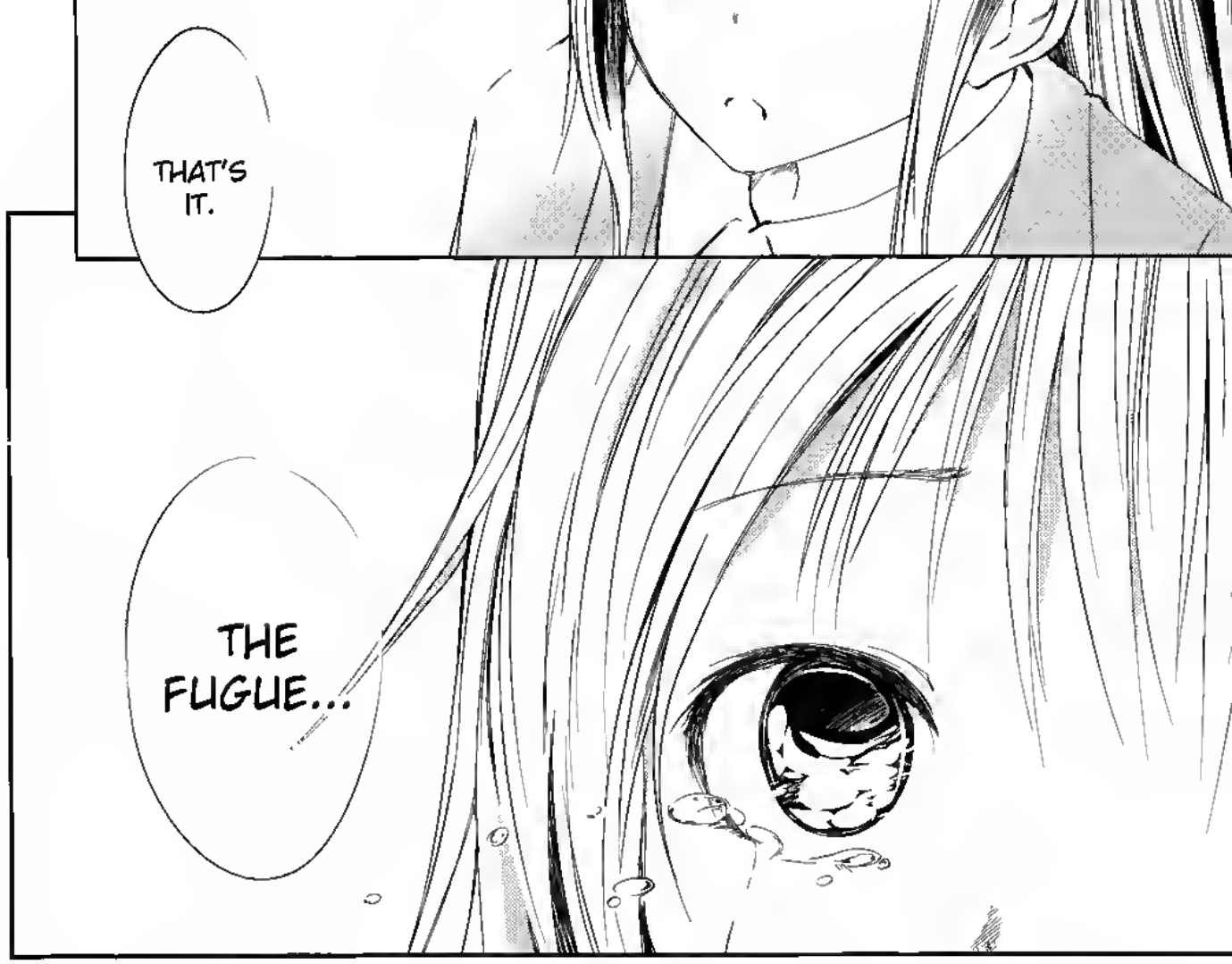
IT'S THE SONG
THAT WILL BE ABLE TO DEFEAT EBISAWA MAFUYU.
SO...
DEFEAT HER!

JAN
THE SWEAT ON MY HANDS IS MAKING MY HAND SLIDE ON THE NECK
MAFUYU PLAYS THE MELODY WITH ROUGH MOVE-MENTS,
AND MY FINGERS RACE TO KEEP UP WITH HER.
I'M MISSING NOTES ALL OVER THE PLACE.
WHEN I SLOW TO A STOP,
MAFUYU'S PACE INVITES ME,
AND WITH THE SAME SOUND,
LIKE AN INTERR-UPTED SIGH, I FOLLOW HER AGAIN.

FEEL LIKE THEY HAVE BECOME ONE.
WITH THAT, OUR HEART-BEATS
IT...
MIGHT HAVE BEEN MY ACTUAL HEART-BEAT,
OR THE REVER-BERATION FROM THE BASS...
BUT I FORGET EVERY-THING
EXC-EPT
FOR THE MOVEMENT OF MY FINGERS.
WHICH SOUND IS THE SOUND OF MY BASS
AND WHICH SOUND IS THE SOUND OF MAFUYU'S GUITAR.
AND I START FORGET-TING

MY ARIA PRO II, AND MAYUFU'S STRATO-CASTER
MELT INTO ONE SOUND, AS IF THEY ARE TWINS
ONE BY-PASS...
A MILLI-SECOND OF SI-LENCE
EVEN ONE GRADE OF DIFFERENCE IN THE TONE BALANCE WOULD UPSET THIS MIRACLE.
IT WAS ALMOST LIKE MAFUYU AND I
HAD BECOME THE RIGHT AND LEFT HANDS OF ONE PER-SON.





SYMPHONY 3, 15 VARIATIONS ON A THEME AND FUGUE IN E-FLAT MAJOR

I'M SEPAR-ATED FROM YOU
BUT BY PLAYING THIS MUSIC TOGETHER
IT'S ALMOST LIKE I'M BY YOUR SIDE.

MAFUYU?

I SHOULD HAVE NOTICED IT BEFORE

BUT I DIDN'T...

THE MUSIC HAS REACHED HER, BUT WHAT HE HASN'T NOTICED HAS...

TO BE CONTINUED

MA-FUYU?
THEY'VE BECOME CLOSE, BUT THE SOUND SUDDENLY STOPS...
WHAT HAPP-ENED?
HEY.
SAY SOME-THING.
.....
...I'M COMING IN.
OI!

CHAPTER 11: "ANSWER"

MANGA: AKASAKA AKA
ORIGINAL WORK: SUGII HIKARU
CHARACTER DESIGN: UEDA RYOU

保健室

WHAT WERE YOU DOING...
TO MAKE HER COL-LAPSE LIKE THIS?

.....
...WE WERE JUST PLAYING GUITAR TOGETHER.

ANY-WAYS,
I'VE CALLED EBI-SAWA-SAN'S FATHER.

THAT'S NOT WHAT IT IS, IS IT?
INSTRUMENTS DON'T DO THIS KIND OF THING TO PEOPLE.

YOU NEED TO LEAVE.
.....
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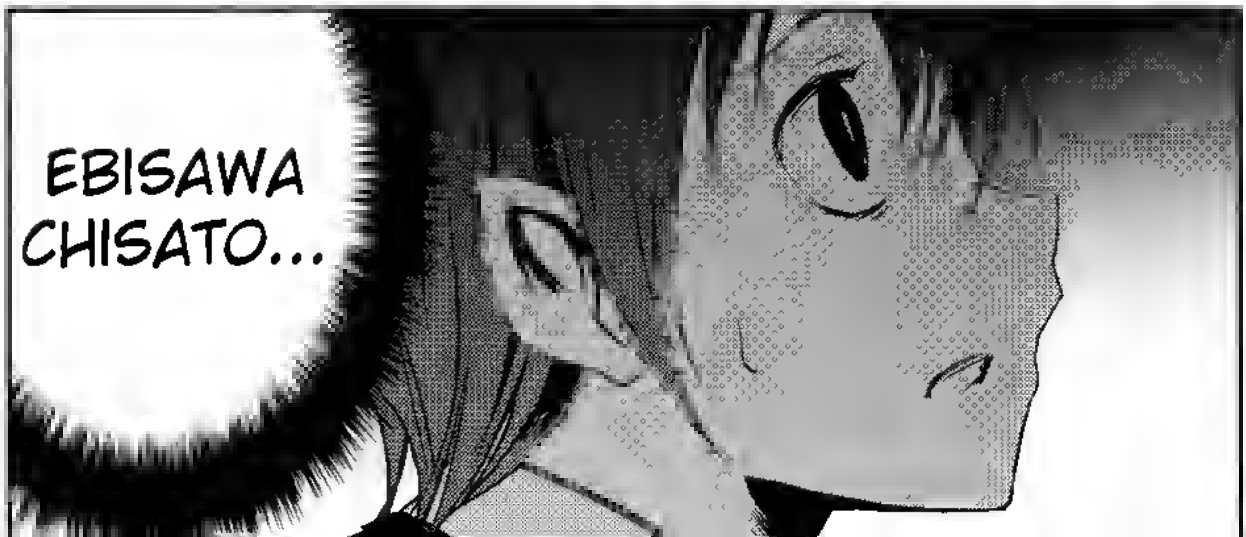

EBISAWA
CHISATO...

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
YOU DIDN'T EVEN GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING?!

OF COURSE IT DOES!
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
.....

I KNOW THAT YOU'RE UPSET, BUT PLEASE TRY TO CALM DOWN...
EBI-SAWA-SENSEI!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I SATISFIED YOUR SELFISH DESIRES?!

!

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE WATCHING HER!
AND YOU!

WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING TO DO IF SHE GOT HURT?!
.....
I CAN'T BE WITH HER ALL THE TIME, SIR.

WHAT IS THIS?
YOU WERE DOING THIS BEHIND MY BACK?!
WHO SAID YOU COULD DO THIS?!
WERE YOU EVEN THINKING OF YOUR HAND?!
WHAT WERE YOU THIN...
ARE YOU SAYING IT'S AL- RIGHT FOR YOU TO STOP PLAYING THE PIANO?!
PLEASE, STOP!
HER DOCTORS HAVE TOLD YOU NOT TO CORNER HER LIKE THIS...!
SHUT UP!
I'M TAKING MAFUYU WITH ME!

I WON'T LEAVE MY DAUGHTER IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
MA-FUYU...?
WHAT
HAPP-ENED?

NO...
IT'S NOT THAT...
MA-FUYU!
STOP IT!!

カハ
AH...
.....
I'M SOR...
RY...

.....
IT'S OKAY.
SHOULD I GET A TEACH...
NO.
I'M OKAY...
SO...
DON'T TELL HER.
WHAT?!
NO...
DON'T...
I'M GOING TO GO GET HER!
ARE YOU DUMB?!
WHAT?!
SHE'S...

GET IN THE CAR.

MA-
FUYU
LOOKED
AT ME

WITH
THE SAME
EYES AS
BACK
THEN.

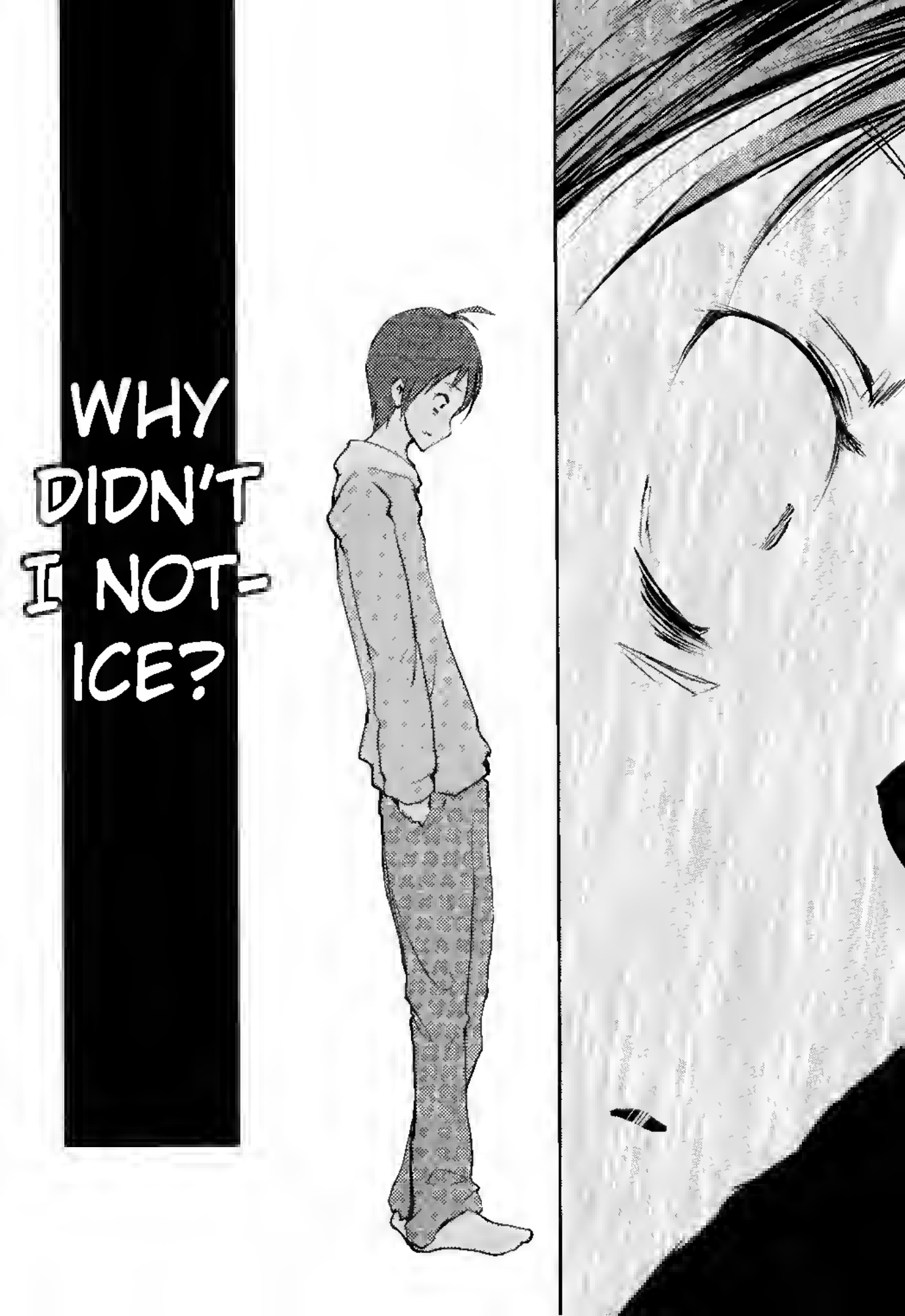
THE DAY I FIRST MET HER
THE SAME EYES AS

WHAT SONG IS THIS?

HEY, TETSU-ROU.
.....

OPUS NO. 2.

PIANO CONCERTO FOR THE LEFT HAND.


WHY DIDN'T I NOT= ICE?

SHE COULDN'T DO ANY-THING.
SHE WASN'T DOING ANY-THING...
DURING P.E. ...
DURING ART CLASS...
SHE DIDN'T TAKE NOTES DURING CLASS.
SHE COULDN'T HOLD THE CHALK.
THERE WERE SO MANY SIGNS.
AS IF TO PLAY THE GUITAR WITHOUT USING THE STRENGTH IN HER FINGERS
SHE USED A SPECIALTY PICK IN A RING
THE SONG THAT MAFUYU WAS PLAYING THAT DAY...

MA-
FUYU'S
RIGHT
HAND
DOE-
SN'T
MOVE
.....
I HEARD
ABOUT IT
FROM A
FELLOW
WRITER.

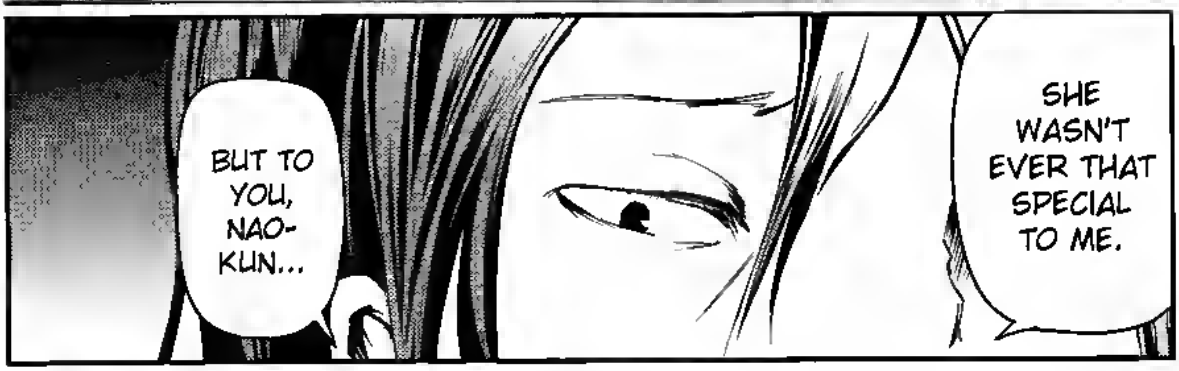
I THINK IT WAS LAST YEAR.
BEFORE A BIG CONCERT IN ENGLAND,
THE FINGERS ON HER RIGHT HAND SUDDENLY WOULDN'T MOVE.
THEY PUT THE CONCERT ON HOLD,
AND THEY TOOK HER TO A HOSPITAL,
BUT THEY COULDN'T FIND A CAUSE.
THERE WAS TALK ABOUT IT BEING A SYMPTOM OF OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDER.

.....
WHEN YOU HEARD ABOUT THIS,
WHAT DID YOU THINK?

THEY THOUGHT THAT IF SHE CAME BACK TO JAPAN AND HAD SOME REST, IT WOULD FIX ITSELF.
THOUGH THAT WAS KIND OF FOOLISH.
IT GOT WORSE AND WORSE, AND THEY ENDED UP HAVING TO TAKE HER BACK TO THE HOSPITAL.

NOT MUCH.

TO ME, SHE'S JUST ONE PIANIST OUT OF THOUS-ANDS.
BUT THAT'S IT.
I'D HAVE LIKED HER TO PLAY THE WHOLE "FRENCH SUITE",
WELL,


BUT TO YOU, NAO-KUN...
SHE WASN'T EVER THAT SPECIAL TO ME.

THAT'S WHAT I HAD TO DO.
DON'T GET YOUR-SELF DOWN, JUST MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ONE.
THERE'S A LOT OF GIRLS OUT THERE.
WELL,

WHY DOES NOBODY CARE ABOUT MAFUYU?

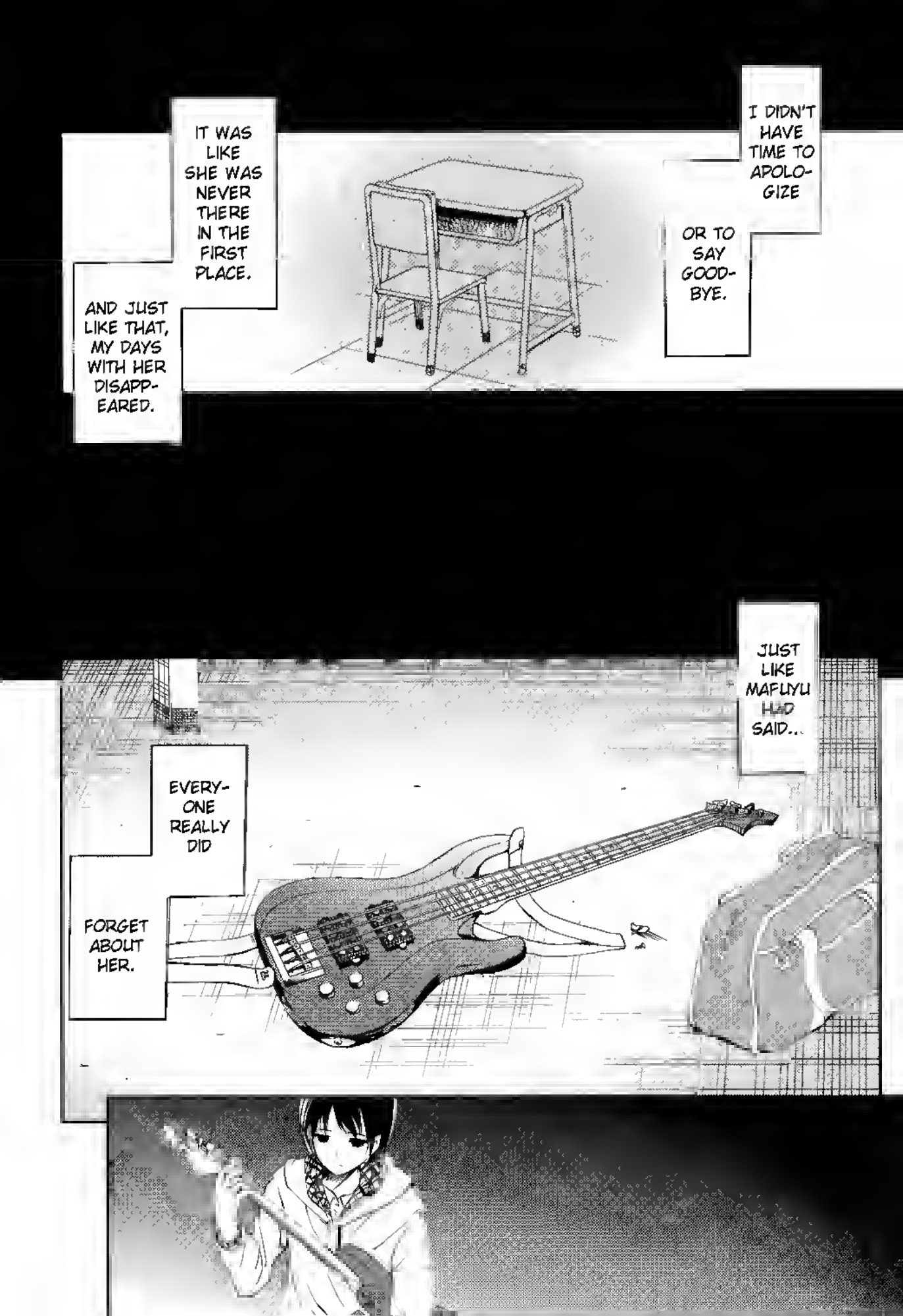
NOBODY CARES

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO...

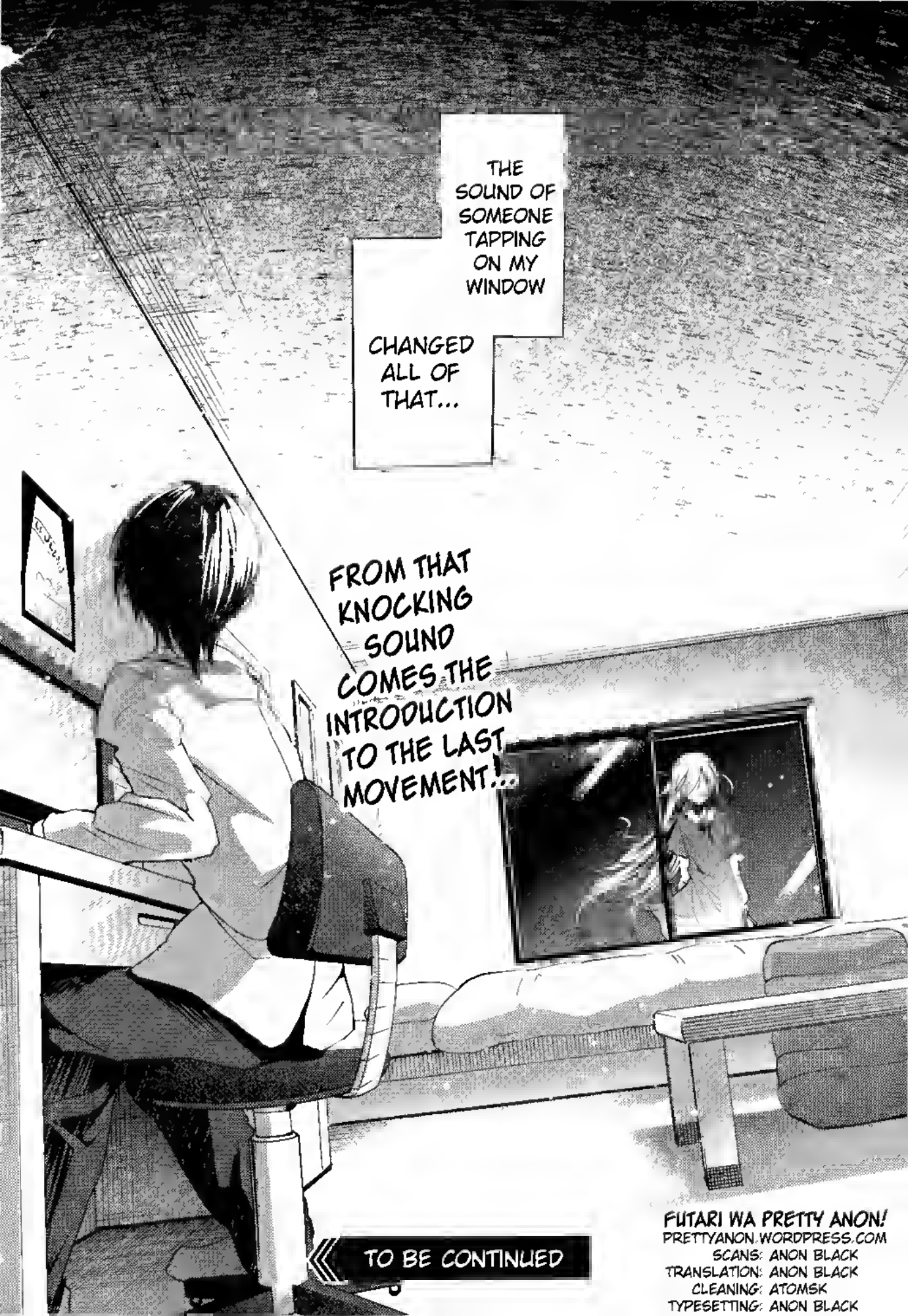
EBISAWA-SAN'S FATHER IS GOING BACK TO AMERICA...
THEY SAID THAT SOME SPECIALIST WAS GOING TO TAKE A LOOK AND PERFORM SURGERY...
AFTER SHE GOES WITH HIM...
.....
SO I GUESS THAT'S WHAT SHE MEANT...
WHEN SHE SAID "I'M GOING TO DISAPP-EAR IN JUNE".

MAFUYU REALLY DID DIS-APPEAR

IN JUNE.


I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO APOLO-GIZE
OR TO SAY GOOD-BYE.
IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS NEVER THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
AND JUST LIKE THAT, MY DAYS WITH HER DISAPP-EARED.
JUST LIKE MAFUYU HAD SAID...
EVERY-ONE REALLY DID
FORGET ABOUT HER.

I'M SURE THAT I SHOULD HAVE
AFTER MANY MONTHS
FOR-GOTTEN ALL ABOUT MAFUYU
AND THE TIME I PLAYED THE BASS
I SHOULD HAVE GONE BACK TO THE DAYS OF LISTENING TO OTHER PEOPLE'S MUSIC.
BUT TWO DAYS LATER...


THE SOUND OF SOMEONE TAPPING ON MY WINDOW
CHANGED ALL OF THAT...
FROM THAT KNOCKING SOUND COMES THE INTRODUCTION TO THE LAST MOVEMENT!...
TO BE CONTINUED

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